

Borden Company House, Allegany Mines  
AL-V-A-128  
Green Row, Zihlman  
ca. 1850

The Borden Mining Company arrived in Allegany County during the mid-1840's and constructed housing for miners before opening the company's mines in 1850. This double or block house, located in the company's village of Allegany Mines, is a good example of the typical company house. It is a two story frame structure with weatherboarding and a four bays wide principal facade which includes two entrances. It rests on wooden posts and has a shed roofed kitchen addition on the northeast.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Borden Company House, Allegany Mines

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Green Row

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Zihlman

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ **STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ethel L. Smith

Telephone #: 689-9768

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 2 Box 261

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 237

Folio #: 193

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-Y-R-128

**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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This building consists of a two story, four bays wide rectangular frame duplex structure with weatherboard siding. It rests on wooden posts with stones placed between them with no apparent water table. The gable front roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Eaves consist of a boxed cornice and soffit. Wall features include cornerboard. An original brick chimney on the interior has a corbeled cap.

Two replaced entrances are located in the center of the southwestern facade. One is of four panels and the other is of two panels and three lights. Slightly pedimented windows are pegged two over two lights with wooden lugsills. A wide porch on the southwest has a hipped porch roof supported by five square wooden posts. A frame addition on the northeast has a shed roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This duplex or "block" house is a good example of company housing rented to George's Creek coal miners. It is located on "Green Row" in the town of Allegany Mines, named for the Borden Coal Company's mine, but later remaned Zihlman. The houses on Green Row were all painted green. (1)

The Borden Company, which also operated a deep shaft mine in the town of Borden Shaft, built houses for their employees before they opened their mines in the early 1850's. (2) Katherine Harvey describes this company housing in The Best Dressed Miners:

The double house was typical of this region. These two family dwellings known as "blocks" were usually of frame construction, two stories high, providing three or four rooms and sometimes a shed kitchen for each occupant. (3)

Although most miners would have preferred owning their own homes there were advantages as well as disadvantages in the practice:

Families which occupied company houses were particularly vulnerable in times of strikes; on the other hand, the man who rented a company house might be the one retained in slack times. In 1875, when the Borden Company discharged ninety men, they were "those who do not occupy or board in the Company's houses." (4)

In 1951 the Borden Company sold the entire neighborhood to the Big Savage Refractories Company which quickly sold the houses to the tennants. (5) Many have been converted into single family dwellings as this one has.

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records

Schaft, John T. History of Western Maryland, Philadelphia: L.H. Everts Co. 1882

Harvey, Katherine A. Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region 1835-1910. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50.45' x 150'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

August 29, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

The building fits Ms. Harvey's description perfectly being a two story frame building with weatherboarding and a four bay front facade including two entrances. It rests on wooden posts and has a shed roofed kitchen addition on the northeast. In structurally sound and fair condition it represents a way of life and an economic system which has mostly disappeared.

- (1) Interview with owner, Ethel L. Smith, Zihlman, Md. December 1, 1978
- (2) John T. Scharf, History of Western Maryland (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts Co.) Vol. LL p. 1444
- (3) Katherine A. Harvey, Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region 1835-1910 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) p.83
- (4) Ibid, p.89
- (5) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 235, Folio 715, and Liber 237, Folio 193

INVENTORY NO.

DATE: Refind owner

216

AL-V-A-128

13/1

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Benson Homes -

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Zihlman

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: SW on Green Row

NAME OF OWNER:

ADDRESS: MAP 13 P-121 ED 30 Harry F Stevens Rt 2 Zihlman Md 21532

295/416 Acreage - 25.68 x 150 689 3886

STORIES: 1( ) 2(☒) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4(☒) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Shed on NW

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
( ) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
( ) Other: Coverings weatherboard

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTER, OTHERS cornerboards

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK stone added really on corner parts

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2(☒) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged (☒) nailed( ) wide ( ) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment (☒)

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: 2 center 1 4 panel 1 2 panel 3 light  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced(☒)  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original(☒) replaced( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: CABLE FRONT GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip(☒) gable( )

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK(☒) STONE( ) CORBELLED(☒) original(☒) replaced( )

LOCATION: outside end chimney on rear removed  
Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior (☒)

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

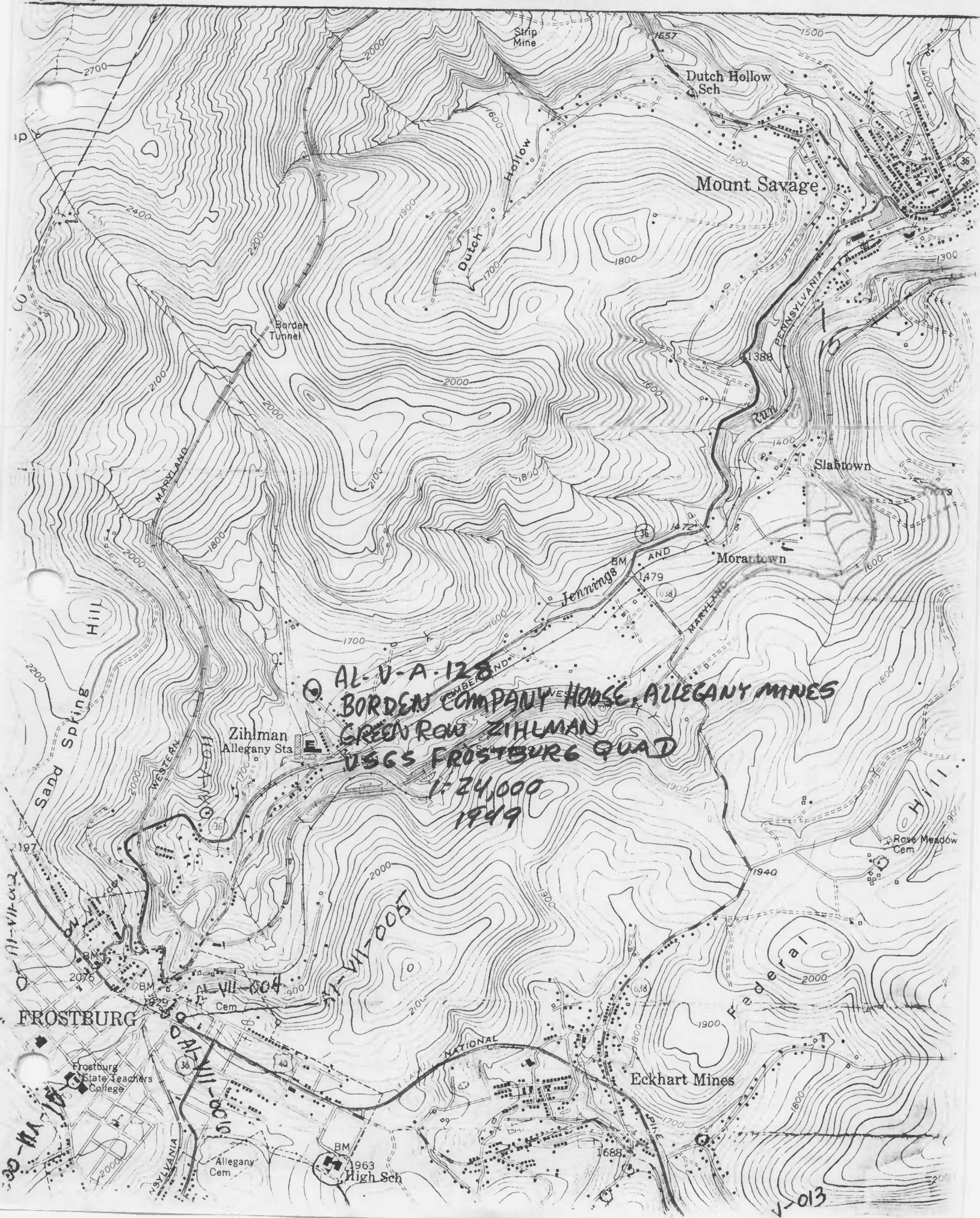
Use -

Significance -

Date Constructed -

Condition -

close to 100 yrs old







AL-V-A-128

BORDEN COMPANY HOUSE, ALLEGANY MINES

7/29/79 - David Dorsey